

THE CITIZEN

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The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

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Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Young skiers enjoy 'Super' Saturdays on Garmisch slopes

— Page 10 —



Jen Stephan

Four-year-old Vincent Shea gets a lift from his mother, Tanya, during the Super Saturday graduation Feb. 12 near Garmisch's Hausberg Lodge. A group of preschool skiers finished five weeks worth of Saturday lessons with a trip up the tow rope and a ski run down the lodge's backyard slope.

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EUCOM recognizes top performers

U.S. European Command honors its service members and civilians of the year at a Feb. 25 ceremony on Patch Barracks.



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'Wardawgs' return to Stuttgart

Almost a year after deploying to Iraq, a contingent of Stuttgart-area MPs returns to Panzer Kaserne.

Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions



Roses to:

Carmen Wallace, Hildegard Göhrum, and the many other men and women who have made the Stuttgart USO such a valuable part of our community.

The local USO's celebration of its 30th anniversary (March 2 in the Stuttgart Rathaus) was a wonderful reminder of what a treasure this organization has been – and continues to be. From enhancing the experiences of members of the U.S. military community to building German-American relationships, the USO truly embodies the word "service."

Here's wishing the USO a belated happy birthday – and here's looking forward to its next three decades of excellence. (*For more about the USO's 30th anniversary see the March 22 edition of The Citizen.*)

The staff of the Kelley Barracks Shoppette, for unfailing friendliness and consistent professionalism.

We in the Stuttgart military community rarely waste a moment when it comes to complaining about what we don't like about AAFES – and we should be just a quick to compliment the outstanding service that is the standard at the Kelley Shoppette.

The members of the Tennessee National Guard who were attached to the 554th Military Police Company for the past 12 months. These fine Soldiers recently completed their year in Stuttgart, and I didn't want to let them leave without a sincere "Thank You" for a job exceptionally well done.

We will miss the sweet southern charm you brought with you to Stuttgart.

E-mail comments to citizen@6asg.army.mil or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

THE CITIZEN

Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris
6th Area Support Group Commander

Public Affairs Officer
Jennifer Sanders
pao@6asg.army.mil

Editor **Hugh C. McBride** citizen@6asg.army.mil
Assistant Editor **Melanie Casey** caseym@6asg.army.mil

Reporters
Terri Alejandro alejandrot@6asg.army.mil
Mildred Green greenm@6asg.army.mil
Jen Stephan jen.stephan@us.army.mil

Contact Information

Office Location: Building 3307-W, Kelley Barracks
U.S. Army Address: Unit 30401, APO AE 09107
German Address: Gebäude 3307-W, Kelley Barracks,
Plieningerstrasse, 70567 Stuttgart
Telephone: 421-2046/civ. 0711-729-2046
Fax: 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570

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Amazing memories await those who venture 'beyond the gate'

By Hugh C. McBride
Commentary

It was the final day of the 2003 Tour de France, and as I pedaled past the Louvre and toward the Champs-Élysées, I knew that neither Lance Armstrong nor any other racer had a hope of catching me before I reached the Arc de Triomphe.

And then I saw the police blockade.

As history has noted, Armstrong and the rest did, indeed, precede me to the Arc.

But instead of stewing in disappointment over a championship wrested from my grasp, I look back on that day as yet another reminder of the amazing and often spontaneous memories that await travelers on this great continent.

It will come as no surprise to anyone that I was in no danger of actually winning the 2003 Tour de France. Instead, my bike and I had taken the train from Stuttgart to Paris for a long weekend of sightseeing from the saddle.

On the Sunday in question, I had set out early with the hopes of staking out a prime viewing point near the finish line. As I neared the area, I kept expecting to encounter barriers blocking traffic from the race route, but to my surprise the path between me and the Arc remained unfettered.

It wasn't until I leaned into the cobblestone turn in front of the Louvre that I seriously began to anticipate actually getting to cycle up the Champs-Élysées – a hope that was dashed moments later by the appearance of the aforementioned barricade.

Shuttled onto a side road, I headed for the Eiffel Tower (somewhat disappointed but fully aware that biking from the Louvre to the Eiffel Tower is far from a bad way to spend a Sunday morning).

I later discovered that I had inadvertently attached myself to the tail of the "Randoneé," (a few thousand registered entrants who are permitted to bike the 18-mile Paris loop that the racers will follow a few hours later) and had made it through before most of the roads – except, sigh, the big one – had been closed to traffic.

My point is this: I'm nothing special (really – take away the matinee-idol good looks and mesmerizing personality, and I'm

You only need to look beyond your desk and past your couch for the small miracles that are out there just waiting for you to embrace them.

just another bozo from Ohio who parlayed a failed marriage into a career with the government and a dream assignment in Europe). But events such as accidentally cycling one of the Tour's most storied routes on one of the Tour's most storied days have happened to me more times than anyone with any sense would expect.

With a little planning, some interesting luck, and a willingness to venture far beyond the gate (literally and metaphorically), I've been able to experience moments that exceed what were once my wildest expectations.

I was over 30 before I got my first passport, and as little as five years ago my entire international experience consisted of four forays across the Canadian border. Since then I've been in more European nations than I have U.S. states, and I've arranged, encountered or otherwise dumb-lucked my way into situations such as the following:

- I've sat in a basement bar in Prague and listened to a trio of 60-something musicians blaze their way through a set of jazz standards.
- I've floated in a gondola down Venice's Grand Canal, then had ice cream in the Piazza San Marco.
- I've been to my first opera (in Berlin) and seen a street musician (in Heidelberg) that I'll remember until I die.
- I've stood in the room in which Anne Frank hid from the Nazis, looked up at the cliffs of Normandy from the sands of Omaha Beach, and walked down the same staircase that Neville Chamberlain did after his "appeasement meeting" with Adolf Hitler.
- I've dropped coins into the cup of a beggar woman in the shadow of

the Roman Forum, and spent way too much money for front-row seats in a concert hall in the Czech Republic.

• And two weeks ago, I made a right turn when I'd thought about going left and found myself in a crowd of thousands receiving a Sunday blessing from Pope John Paul II.

Now, I'm pretty sure that I'm not the first person to opine that, gee, Europe sure has lotsa nice places to see! But I'm just as certain that, like me, everyone else in this community has had days, weeks or months in which the daily demands of staying alive and employed have eclipsed the possibilities made so tantalizingly real by this most wondrous of duty postings.

So, as the snow in Stuttgart reaches neck-deep and continues to fall – and with the needle pegged on the local operational tempo – my modest request for anyone who reads this article is to take a moment or two and plot yourself a getaway.

You may envision two weeks on a sun-kissed Greek island or an afternoon at Legoland.

You may crave the serenity of solitude, the dawn of a new friendship or the reaffirmation of a lifelong love affair.

Maybe you just want to be anywhere (anywhere!) where your boss can't find you for 15 minutes (remember: it's your fantasy – we're not here to judge).

I only ask that you look beyond your desk and past your couch at the small miracles that are out there just waiting for you to embrace them.

As for me, I'll be busy preparing for July 24 – because I'm getting the sneaking suspicion that this may be the year I finally beat Lance to the Arc.

ON THE STREET

What was your best vacation in Europe?

– Compiled by The Citizen staff



Maj. Wendy Rivers
(Army)

Trips to Italy for the shopping and authentic food. There's so much to do and so much history.



Anthony Carbajal
(Student)

When I went to Austria and went snowboarding.



Jaime Wood
(Civilian)

Kos, Greece, because it was the most relaxing and peaceful place I've been to.



Arielle Reynolds
(Student)

Paris. I was finally tall enough to ride Space Mountain [at Disneyland] and also saw the Eiffel tower.

German American Women's Club continues tradition of giving

Story and photo by Melanie Casey

When it comes to giving, the German American Women's Club is getting pretty good.

For the past 36 years, the club has donated proceeds from its annual Pfennig Bazaar to worthy German, American and joint organizations.

The club continued its tradition of generosity at a distribution ceremony held Feb. 22 in Stuttgart's Rathaus. Checks totaling 75,000 euro – the proceeds from 2004's Pfennig Bazaar – were distributed to 14 American and 21 German or joint German-American organizations.

On hand for the event were Stuttgart's Oberbürgermeister (Lord Mayor) Dr. Wolfgang Schuster; U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald; EUCOM Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Colby Broadwater; 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris and 6th ASG Deputy Commander Joseph Moscone.

Schuster said during the event that the annual Pfennig Bazaar is a "very important tradition in Stuttgart" and "a sign that [Americans] are involved and a part of our community."

He also said that the success of the German American Woman's Club is proof that German and American friendships are alive and well in Stuttgart. Wald noted that despite what is often portrayed in the news, the "Stuttgart German and American communities [and their friendships] represent what our countries really stand for."

Started in 1947 on the heels of World War II with the goal of developing a mutual understanding and respect for the culture of other countries, the GAWC strives to support German and American youth activities, students exchange and help people in need.



Boy Scout Troop 324 Leader Steven Gregorcyk accepts a check from the German American Women's Club during a distribution ceremony held Feb. 22 in Stuttgart's Rathaus.

GAWC support blankets community

The following U.S. military-affiliated organizations received checks from the German American Women's Club Feb. 22. The GAWC's Pfennig Bazaar raises considerable funds to support of area organizations:

- American Red Cross
- Olympic Development Program
- AWAG
- Patch American High School
- Boy Scout Troop 324
- Sitzmarkers Ski Club
- Patch Barracks Youth Services
- Stuttgart Area Girl Scouts
- Kelley Barracks YS
- Stuttgart Piranhas Swim Team
- Robinson Barracks YS
- Teens Against Tobacco Use
- Panzer Kaserne YS
- USO

News & Notes

Townhall meeting on Patch

The 6th Area Support Group's next community Townhall Meeting is March 9, 7 p.m., in the Patch Barracks Theater. Representatives from all 6th ASG directorates will provide information about upcoming events and issues and will be available to answer questions.

All community members are encouraged to attend. For details e-mail ty.steam@us.army.mil

Women's History Month luncheon

The 6th Area Support Group Equal Opportunity Office invites community members to its Women's History Month luncheon March 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Swabian Special Events Center. The guest speaker is national security consultant Christine Shelly.

The buffet-style lunch includes chicken cordon bleu, parsley potatoes and salad. Live piano music will be also be provided. Cost is \$7 per person. Seating is limited, so purchase tickets in advance.

For details contact Cheryl Stovall at 421-2649/civ. 0711-729-2649.

Girl Scouts Brownie bash

The Stuttgart-based Girl Scouts of America hosts a Brownie Bash March 12, 9:30 a.m. to noon, in Böblingen Elementary School on Panzer Kaserne.

At the meeting, the troop will examine space exploration. For more information e-mail Laurie Calvin at laurie-calvin@excite.com.

Pancake breakfast on Patch

American Legion Post 6 offers a pancake breakfast every Sunday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Patch Barracks Community Club.

Enjoy pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs and Gary's famous biscuits and gravy. Cost varies between \$2 and \$4.

For more information call Michael Sloan at 434-5537/civ. 0711-686-39-5537.

Patch Thrift Shop closure

The Patch Thrift Shop will be closed March 14 to 17 in conjunction with the Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club's Spring Bazaar. For details call 430-5510/civ. 0711-680-5510.

AFCEA scholarship applications

The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association is accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors until April 1.

For more information or to apply, PHS students should contact Mr. Taylor at 0711-680-8582. Students who attend the International School or who are home schooled should contact Ms. Bowers at 434-5603/Civ/0711-686-39-5603.

Suicide prevention class

Stuttgart's next Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training class is March 24 and 25, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Stuttgart Wellness Center classroom, Patch Barracks building 2307, 2nd floor.

ASIST is a Department of the Army-sponsored program that trains participants to recognize symptoms and intervene with individuals who may be contemplating suicide.

For more information or to register for ASIST call Michelle Saylor at 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073.

Youth Sports seeks coaches

Make a positive contribution to Stuttgart community youth by becoming a coach for the upcoming indoor soccer, softball and baseball seasons. Training will be provided.

For more info call the Youth Sports office at 431-2616/civ. 07031-15-2616 or stop by any YS facility.

Rugby team needs players

The Stuttgart Rugby Football Club seeks new members to join their men and women's teams. No experience is necessary. For more information call Lt. Col. Chuck Hensley at 0711-680-4219 or e-mail charles.hensley@us.army.mil or visit the Web site at www.rugby-stuttgart.de.

PCS/Pre-separation briefing

The next permanent change of station/pre-separation briefing is March 16, 1 p.m., in the first floor of building 2913, Panzer Kaserne. Registration is required. For more info or to sign up call 431-2599/civ. 07031-15-2599

Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club

Spring Bazaar



March 18 – 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

March 19 – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

March 20 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Patch Barracks Youth Services,
Fitness Center & Community Club.

Volunteers (who get to shop early and are entered into a free raffle for great vendor prizes) are still needed!

For more information call Sabine Rodocker at 0711-120-8162 or e-mail sabine_rodocker@yahoo.com.

Headquarters, European Command honors service members, civilians of year

Story and photos by Melanie Casey

Three service members and two civilians were awarded the title of 2004 Headquarters, U.S. European Command Service Member or Civilian of the Year in their respective categories during a luncheon ceremony held Feb. 25 on Patch Barracks.

More than 100 service members, family members and friends attended the event. Col. William Beydler, the Joint Training, Readiness and Exercise Division Chief with the EUCOM Plans and Operations Center, served as the guest speaker and helped dole out the awards along with Master Sgt. Ron Singleterry, the acting command sergeant major for the Headquarters, EUCOM Commandant's office.

Tough competition

Singleterry noted that this year's competition was tough. "Although there can only be one winner, you are all winners," he told the nominees. "Each and every one of you should be proud of your accomplishment." Beydler told the gathered crowd that the 14 nominees were "the best that [EUCOM] can offer – the best of the best. It's a tribute to your country that we attract such men and women."

The day prior to the Feb. 25 ceremony, the military nominees sat before a board composed of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine components. "All of the nominees were outstanding," said board member Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Sean Warren, the EUCOM Reserve Affairs executive officer. "The things that separated the winners were extremely small. It was a difficult process."

The nominees were judged according to their knowledge of topics such as force protection, current events, the code of conduct and nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, Warren said, adding that uniform appearance, military bearing and how the service member reported to the board were factors that came into play during the decision making process.

The winners of the 2004 Headquarters, EUCOM Service Member and Civilian of the Year competition were:

Junior Service Member of the Year: Army Spc. Laura Craig, a graphic specialist assigned to Survey Division, HQEUCOM J2, at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium.

Noncommissioned Officer/Petty Officer of the Year: Air Force Tech. Sgt. Maurice Evans, who is assigned to HQEUCOM on Patch Barracks. Other nominees were Staff

All of the nominees were outstanding. The things that separated the winners were extremely small. It was a difficult process.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Sean Warren
Board member

Sgt. Cheryl Hines, Tech. Sgt. Kurtis Taylor and Tech. Sgt. Bradford Taylor.

Senior Noncommissioned officer/Petty Officer of the Year:

Master Sgt. Dwayne Allen, an Airman working as the NCO in Charge of the Installation Management Division, Directorate of Support, Joint Analysis Center at Royal Air Force Molesworth in the United Kingdom. Other nominees were Chief Petty Officer Rubens Almedia and Sgt. 1st Class Eric Jeffers.

Junior Civilian of the Year: Katherine Seifert, who is the administrative assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate, Office of Defense Cooperation, in Ankara, Turkey. Other nominees were Deborah College and Anne Sarver.

Senior Civilian of the Year: Andrea Hill, the administrative assistant to the Iceland Defense Force commander in Keflavik, Iceland. Other nominees were Richard Potterton and Dmytro Stoma.

Along with bragging rights, the winners brought home gift certificates from AAFES; the USO; Service Credit Union; Armed Forces



Tech. Sgt. Maurice Evans is all smiles as he poses for a photo with Master Sgt. Ron Singleterry (left) and Col. William Beydler during the Headquarters, EUCOM Service Member and Civilian of the Year ceremony Feb. 25. Evans, the only Stuttgart-area service member to win, was awarded the title of 2004 Headquarters, EUCOM Noncommissioned Officer/Petty Officer of the Year.

Recreation Center's Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch and the S.I. Centrum in Stuttgart.

Surprised by win

Senior NCO winner Allen said he was surprised by his win. "I knew I did okay," he said, "but I was still surprised." Allen added that he studied and went through several

mock boards to prepare.

NCO winner Evans said he, too, was caught off guard. "I made sure I had all my ducks in a row. It's an honor."

Craig and Evans move forward to compete in the EUCOM-wide Service Member and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and will compete against other service members within the 6th ASG, Singleterry said.

Army, Air Force, kick off fundraising campaigns

Two service-related fundraising campaigns are kicking off in the Stuttgart military community:

Army Emergency Relief

- Campaign runs March 15 to April 29.
- Contributions help the financial needs of eligible single or married active-duty and retired Soldiers and their family members.
- This year's local goal is \$30,000. For more information call Herman

Hurd at 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176 or visit www.aerhq.org.

Air Force Assistance Fund

- Campaign continues until April 18.
- Provides an opportunity to contribute to Air Force-related charities.
- This year's local goal is \$54,000. For more information call 1st Lt. Ingrid Amadis at 430-6965/civ. 0711-680-6965 or visit <http://afassistance-fund.org>.

— Welcome home, 'Wardawgs' —

Stuttgart MPs return from Iraq

By Melanie Casey

Twenty-seven members of the 554th Military Police Battalion returned home to Panzer Kaserne Feb. 19 after more than 11 months of service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the deployment, the Soldiers were attached to the 230th Military Police Company from Kaiserslautern, platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Felix Estrella said.

Initially stationed near Baghdad (where they completed recovery missions and convoy escorts), the local troops also trained Iraqi police forces on Tallil Air Base.

The Soldiers also escorted trucks laden with election ballots to Baghdad polling centers and aided in humanitarian missions such as guarding utilities and school construction sites, said 1st Lt. Guy Workman.

Many of the new Iraqi police recruits were former police, former Soldiers or individuals who just never had a chance, said Sgt. Jeff Young.

Training the new Iraqi police force, Estrella said, could pose a challenge. Although for the most part "everyone was pretty enthusiastic [about the U.S. presence] in [Tallil], the majority of Iraqis still have fear," he said.

"[They have] the fear to take charge and responsibility. This comes from years of being punished for standing up. All they've seen is corruption," he added.

The 554th Soldiers performed well under fire, said 554th Commander, Capt. Anthony Tangeman,

"In the most dangerous and hostile environments," he said, "They took care of each other and brought everyone home. I am extremely proud of what they accomplished and am forever



photos courtesy 554th MP Co.

[Left] 554th Soldiers smile as they return home from an 11-month deployment in Iraq. [Right] Platoon leader 1st Lt. Guy Workman enjoys a welcome home kiss.

in debt for their sacrifices."

One Soldier, Pfc. Kristine Harlan, saved a fellow Soldier's arm when she performed medical aid while in the field. Harlan, who had no medical training, said she reacted on gut instinct. "It was one of my guys," she said.

A total of 41 Soldiers rotated through the platoon during the 11-month deployment, Workman said. Seven Soldiers were

injured, but five of those have already returned to duty. The Soldiers earned 12 Purple Hearts, more than 50 Army Commendation Medals and seven Army Commendation Medals with Valor, Estrella said.

Initially slated to leave in mid-March, the Soldiers found out in late January that they would be coming home early, Estrella said.

Black History Month event celebrates heritage, hope, cultural contributions

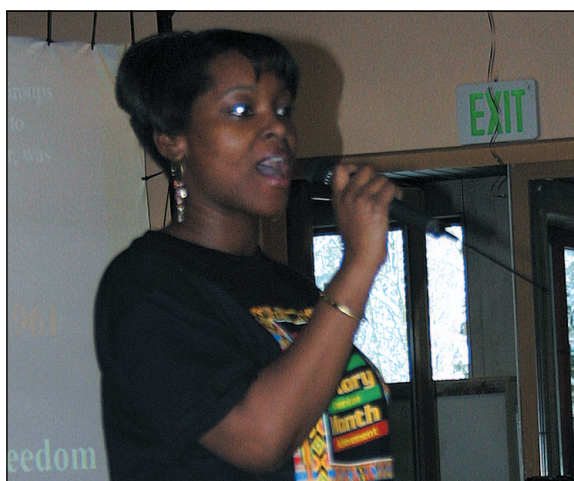


Dr. Bernard Harris addresses a crowd gathered for the Black History Month Luncheon and celebration Feb. 16 in the Patch Community Club. Harris, a former NASA astronaut who has walked in space, spoke of the importance of recognizing and believing in one's dreams.



[Above] 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris accepts a lunch plate from the Mark Cauters, chief of the 6th ASG Morale, Welfare and Recreation's business operations division, during Stuttgart's Black History Month Luncheon Feb. 16.

[Right] Spc. Akya Wilkins performs one of the many musical selections that opened the annual celebration.



Story and photos by
Melanie Casey

Not everyone can claim Star Trek's Dr. Bones McCoy as a childhood inspiration, but former NASA astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris proudly does.

As the guest speaker for the 6th Area Support Group Equal Opportunity Office's Feb. 16 Black History Month Luncheon, Harris described his influences (including McCoy) his dreams, his training and his space missions to a packed — and rapt — Patch Community Club audience.

Selected by NASA in 1990, Harris is an Air Force-trained flight surgeon who was the first African American — and one of only 30 people ever — to walk in space.

He holds several bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees and in 1993 traveled aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia as a mission specialist.

In 1995, he was the payload commander for the Space Shuttle Discovery and spent time on the Mir Space Station.

Harris now helps run the Harris Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting math and science education and crime prevention programs among America's youth.

Cultural celebration

The annual event both reflected on and celebrated African American heritage.

Local service members Spc. Akya Wilkins, Maj. Robert Barnes, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffery Matthews and Sgt. 1st Class Kevin McCroskey performed musical selections to open the event, and Sgt. 1st Class Juana Anderson performed an interpretive dance.

Booths, which provided information about the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and African American art and literature, among others, lined the walls of the community club.

A slide show depicting famous, and not so famous, African American inventors played as participants feasted on a delicious "soul food" lunch of fried chicken, home made macaroni and cheese, collard greens and corn bread.

In the background, Kaiserslautern-based guitarist Keith Cole played a variety of African American-influenced music from blues and jazz to Carlos Santana.

A dreamer

While Harris spoke of space missions and added insightful and often humorous anecdotes of his time in space, he also spoke of the importance of recognizing and following dreams.

1969 was a year of struggle on earth, Harris said, but it was a year of hope in space.

The moon landing that year was not only

Answer that call that is within each of you. Discover who you really are and realize that dreams do come true.

Dr. Bernard Harris

*Black History Month Luncheon Speaker
(Former NASA Astronaut)*



Sgt. 1st Class Juana Anderson performs an African-American inspired dance during the Feb. 16 Black History Month event.

a giant step forward for mankind, "it was a tremendous leap for this little colored boy. My whole world opened up. This is where my dream began," he said, adding that his "story is an African American story."

"Dreams are the reality of the future," Harris impressed upon the audience time and again. "I visualized myself as an astronaut and that's why I'm standing here today ... when I decided to be an astronaut, something happened on the inside that caused an effect on the outside."

In addition to discussing the importance of dreams and learning to listen to that voice inside (which Harris said is the voice of God), Harris described his 1995 space walk and made the link between that historic event and the African American struggle for equality.

"I felt that I saw the earth as God sees the earth," Harris said of his view from space. "There were no imaginary lines that divide countries, no differences between us. In space we are all the same."

In each of us, Harris said, there is a place that will allow the same vantage point he had while in space.

"Answer that call that is within each of you," he implored his audience, "Discover who you really are and realize that dreams do come true."

The 2005 'Dirty Dozen'

IRS identifies year's top tax scams

Internal Revenue Service Release

The Internal Revenue Service has unveiled its annual listing of notorious tax scams. The 2005 "Dirty Dozen" is compiled to remind taxpayers to be wary of schemes that promise to eliminate taxes or otherwise sound too good to be true.

"The Dirty Dozen is a reminder that tax scams can take many forms," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "Don't be fooled by false promises peddled by scam artists. They'll take your money and leave you with a hefty tax bill."

The IRS routinely pursues and shuts down promoters of these scams, but taxpayers should also remember that anyone pulled into these schemes can face repayment of taxes plus interest and penalties:

1. Trust Misuse – Unscrupulous promoters for years have urged taxpayers to transfer assets into trusts. They promise reduction of income subject to tax, deductions for personal expenses and reduced estate or gift taxes. However, some trusts do not deliver the promised tax benefits, and the IRS is actively examining these arrangements.

More than two dozen injunctions have been obtained against promoters since 2001, and numerous promoters and their clients have been prosecuted.

2. Frivolous Arguments – Promoters have been known to make the following outlandish claims: that the 16th Amendment concerning congressional power to lay and collect income taxes was never ratified; that wages are not income; that filing a return and paying taxes are merely voluntary; and that being required to file Form 1040 violates the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination or the Fourth Amendment right to privacy.

Don't believe these or other similar claims. Such arguments are false and have been thrown out of court. While taxpayers have the right to contest their tax liabilities in court, no one has the right to disobey the law.

3. Return Preparer Fraud – Dishonest return preparers can cause many headaches for taxpayers who fall victim to their ploys. Such preparers derive financial gain by skimming a portion of their clients' refunds and charging inflated fees for return preparation services.

Taxpayers should choose carefully when hiring a tax preparer. As the saying goes, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. No matter who prepares the return, the taxpayer is ultimately responsible for its accuracy.

4. Credit Counseling Agencies – Taxpayers should be careful with credit counseling organizations that claim they can fix credit ratings, push debt payment agreements or charge high fees, monthly service charges or mandatory "contributions" that may add to debt.

Some of these organizations charge large fees while providing little or no counseling.

5. "Claim of Right" Doctrine – In this scheme, a taxpayer files a return and attempts to take a deduction equal to the entire amount of his or her wages.

The promoter advises the taxpayer to label the deduction as "a necessary expense for the production of income" or "compensation for personal services actually rendered."

This so-called deduction is based on a misinterpretation of the Internal Revenue Code and has no basis in law.

6. "No Gain" Deduction – Similar to "Claim of Right," filers attempt to eliminate their entire adjusted gross income by deducting it on Schedule A. This also has no basis in law.

7. Corporation Sole. Participants in this scheme apply for incorporation under the pretext of being a "bishop" or "overseer" of a one-person, phony religious organization or society with the idea that this entitles the individual to exemption from federal income taxes.

Since September 2004, the Department of Justice has obtained six injunctions against promoters of this scheme and filed complaints against 11 others.

8. Identity Theft. It pays to be choosy when it comes to disclosing personal information. Identity thieves have used stolen personal data to access financial accounts, run up



As the saying goes, if it sounds too good to be true ... The Internal Revenue Service is warning taxpayers that participation in illegal attempts to reduce (or evade) one's tax responsibility isn't only a bad idea, it can also result in criminal prosecution. For expert advice about tax issues for members of the local U.S. military communities, visit or call the Stuttgart Tax Center (for details see box below).

Stuttgart center takes tension out of return preparation process

The Stuttgart Tax Center offers a wide range of information and assistance for community members. The following are "just the facts" about the center:

- **Location** – Kelley Barracks, Building 3312 (Second Floor, Room 231)
- **Hours of Operation** – Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Duration of Operation** – Feb. 1 to June 15
- **Phone Number** – 421-4588/civ. 0711-729-4588
- **Appointments** – Available by calling the phone number above, but walk-ins are welcome on a space-available basis. (Individuals with complicated returns are urged to make an appointment.)

Community members who wish to use the tax center's services are advised to bring the following documents and information with them:

- Military identification card(s).
- Social Security Number(s) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number(s) for all dependents.
- All applicable W-2 and 1099 forms.
- Bank information (including routing number and account number) for direct deposit of return.
- Previous year's tax return (if available).
- Power of attorney (if filing jointly and spouse cannot be present). Ideally, both spouses should be present.
- Any other relevant tax-related documents.

charges on credit cards and apply for new loans.

Taxpayers should note the IRS does not use e-mail to contact them about issues related to their accounts. If taxpayers have any doubt whether a contact from the IRS is authentic, they can call 1-800-829-1040 to confirm it.

9. Abuse of Charitable Organizations and Deductions – The IRS has noted an increase in the use of tax-exempt organizations to improperly shield income or assets from taxation.

10. Offshore Transactions. Despite a crackdown on the practice by the IRS and state tax agencies, individuals continue to try to avoid U.S. taxes by illegally hiding income in offshore bank and brokerage accounts.

The IRS, along with the tax agencies of U.S. states and possessions, continues to aggressively pursue taxpayers and promoters involved in such abusive transactions.

11. Zero Return – Promoters of this scheme instruct taxpayers to enter all zeros on their federal income tax filings.

12. Employment Tax Evasion – The IRS has seen a number of illegal schemes that instruct employers not to withhold federal income tax or other employment taxes from wages paid to their employees.

Such advice is based on an incorrect interpretation of Section 861 and other parts of the tax law and has been refuted in court. Recent cases have resulted in criminal convictions, and the courts have issued injunctions to stop the promotion of this scheme.

Individuals who suspect tax fraud can call the IRS at 1-800-829-0433.

For more information visit www.irs.gov.

Rome endures, entices

Walk through history in Italy's 'Eternal City'



Viewed from a bridge across the Tiber River, the dome of St. Peter's Basilica dominates the horizon. The world's largest church, the basilica stands on the spot where it is believed St. Peter himself was crucified under the direction of Rome's infamous Emperor Nero (who, in addition to being a persecutor of Christians, is also suspected of orchestrating the fire that consumed the city in 64 AD.)



Pope John Paul II delivers his traditional Sunday blessing Feb. 19 from the window of his Vatican study, which overlooks St. Peter's square.



[Above] Almost framed by a real remnant of ancient Rome, a collection of souvenir statuettes await buyers on the edges of the ruins of the Roman Forum.

[Left] Slowly making her way up a cobblestone path leading away from the ruins of the Forum, an elderly woman begs for change.

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

You know you're in the middle of a memorable vacation when your afternoon includes an accidental audience with the pope.

Technically "audience *with* the pope" may be too intimate of a description – to be precise, I was one of the thousands who were crowded into the piazza in front of St. Peter's Basilica, and His Holiness was a few stories up, offering his Sunday blessing from the window of his Vatican study.

But the fact that I could absentmindedly amble across this gathering at the moment that the cannon fired to signal the appearance of Pope John Paul II is merely one example of the many splendors and surprises that await one in Rome.

The eternal city

Legendarily founded by the orphaned twin sons of the god of war and a former vestal virgin, Rome holds millenia of treasure in store for those who visit.

From the magnificence of the Vatican Museums to the decaying wonders of the Roman Forum, one can be forgiven for confusing a walk through "the Eternal City" with following a path through the very history of human civilization.

According to tradition, Rome came into existence April 21, 753 BC, when Romulus killed his twin brother, Remus, and founded a city named after himself. (Though many now take this story with the proverbial grain of salt, evidence unearthed by archaeologists confirms that the city does, indeed, date to approximately 6 or 7 centuries before the birth of Christ.)

Founded in the aftermath of a legendary murder, Rome has not been a stranger to bloodshed in the intervening centuries.

St. Peter is believed to have been martyred on the spot where the basilica that bears his name now stands, the Colosseum was the site of world-renowned blood sports, and of course Julius Caesar met his untimely (to him, at least) demise in Rome on a certain March 15 more than 2,000 years ago.

On a larger scale, the city has endured a number of civil wars, invasions and sackings. Various rulers (kings, emperors, popes and others) laid their claims upon the city through the millenia, and as both secular and spiritual influence rose and waned, Rome remained a focal point of art, architecture, politics and power.

In the 20th century, Rome's martial lineage continued with Mussolini's fascist leadership and alignment with Nazi Germany. As late as the 1970s, radical groups including the *Brigate Rosse* (Red Brigade) conducted terrorist campaigns in the city, including the murder of a former prime minister.

But through it all – much like the shattered remnants of Rome's famous ruins – the city itself has endured, forging a unique beauty all the more luminescent for the terrors and tragedies it has survived.

Art & architecture

Though Rome has an undeniably violent history, it is also home to some of the world's most awe-inspiring architecture and breathtaking works of art.

(And, in the "good news" category for those who would like to view these treasures in person, sightings of invading Visigoths and black-shirted fascists are – with the exception of the occasional unfortunate costume party selection – nonexistent these days. Though being sideswiped by a Vespa is a fate that still awaits the unaware pedestrian who attempts to cross one of Rome's stunningly congested streets without looking both ways once or twice.)

And while no one would expect all of Rome's great artists to have been particularly devout, much of the art in this Vatican-influenced city is (not surprisingly) religious in nature.

Visiting some of these works – for example, Michaelangelo's magnificent paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, which are on almost every Rome-goer's "must-see list" – will likely require a wait in line and the purchase of a ticket. (Touring the Vatican Museums, which includes the Sistine Chapel, costs 12 euro per person – and if you arrive at

Rome provokes and challenges, inspires and surprises.

The city willingly offers up its beauty, but also requires that the visitor see its scars.

the museums' 8 a.m. opening time, be prepared to be at the back of a line that can literally stretch for miles.)

However, other works worthy of a day's viewing can be seen for free – and may often be done so with little or no wait. One such example is Bernini's exquisite sculpture of "The Ecstasy of St. Teresa," which stands in a transept to the left of the main altar in the relatively tiny, out-of-the-way church of Santa Maria della Vittoria (St. Mary of the Victory).

[Note: Because this sculpture plays a significant role in Dan Brown's "Angels and Demons," demand to see it has increased in recent years; still, its off-the-beaten path location offers some respite from the tourist throngs.]

For those interested more in structures than sculptures, Rome's architectural enticements range from the pre-Christian ruins of the Roman Forum to the imposing Castel Sant' Angelo to the grandiosity of St. Peter's Basilica and its Bernini-designed piazza (any of which could occupy the design-minded for hours if not days).

Rome is home to hundreds of churches, chapels, oratories and other destinations of religious significance. Add to this mix a wealth of secular wonders, the hustle and bustle of a modern metropolis, and an array of restaurants that will cause you to beg forgiveness for ever entering an Olive Garden, and it won't take long for you to realize why travellers have been trekking to Italy's Eternal City for generations.

Looking within

Given its many artistic, architectural and gastronomic delights, what may be most surprising about Rome is that its most transcendent aspect can't be seen, touched or tasted.

In 1337, the poet Petrarch wrote that "Nowhere is Rome less well known than in Rome." This, of course, may be said of any city: That only a foreigner can truly grasp its significance, can impartially place its wonders in the proper perspective. But when in Rome, the traveller may also find that while he is evaluating and interpreting the city, the city is looking just as intently right back at him.

Any American who is satisfied with his nation's grand history and ability to endure would do well to meditate upon these thoughts while sitting amid the decaying ruins of the empire that once ruled the world.

Anyone who is certain that all answers to society's ills lie within the church should walk the perimeter of St. Peter's Square in the moonlight, careful not to stumble over the men and women who sleep in doorways and huddle over heating grates not 100 meters from the most magnificent church on Earth.

And any patron of the arts who knows that in expressions of beauty lie the antidote to hatred can surely find no better place than Rome to contemplate the atrocities that this eternal city of breathtaking beauty has seen.

Regardless of one's personal philosophy, Rome likely contains both the seeds of this perspective and those of its antithesis. Rome willingly offers up its beauty, but also requires that the visitor see its scars.

It provokes and challenges, inspires and surprises. Rome reinforces one's most fleeting fancies and attacks one's most dearly held convictions.

In the end, Rome rewards its visitors. Whether one chooses to call this gift enlightenment, awareness, affirmation or any other name says as much about the traveller as it does about the city – which, when one thinks about it, may be what going to Rome is really all about after all.



Under the watchful eye of two of her instructors, a young skier glides through the final gate of the Super Saturday instructional season Feb. 12 near Garmisch's Hausberg Lodge.

Preschool skiers celebrate Super Saturdays on area slopes

Story and photos by Jen Stephan

Après ski, it was chocolate cupcakes with lollipops and juice for the preschool set at the Super Saturday graduation Feb. 12 in the Hausberg Lodge.

After five Saturdays of downhill ski lessons, the youngsters finished big with a trip up the tow rope and a ski run down the Hausberg Lodge's backyard slope through a small obstacle course.

"The success rate with the classes is 75 percent – and that's not bad for only five weeks," said volunteer ski instructor David Lonkhurst. "When they come up that tow rope with a smile – turn and stop. It's a real joy," he said.

The parents were just as enthusiastic.

"The best thing about this experience for me was the quality time I get to spend with my daughter watching her learn to ski," said John Northcott, whose 4-year-old daughter, Jordon, has participated for two years.

Jordan agreed with her dad. "It was the funnest day I ever had," she said.

Another parent, Mary Carlton, pointed out the advantage she felt the kids had because most of the ski instructors for the Super Saturday program were volunteers from the Child Development Center. "It allows my children to learn to ski from the teachers and staff they see every day," she said.

Barbie Hayes Howard, the Child Development Center cook, said the opportunity to work with the young skiers motivated her to volunteer.

"I really enjoy being with the children. [Super Saturday] gives me a chance to get out of the kitchen and spend more time with them," she said.

The preschool ski program was begun several years ago by Garmisch's Director of Community Activities, Eric Weisel.

"The reason I started [the Super Saturday Program] was because I noticed that although there was ski instruction



Eric Weisel instructs 4-year-old Vanya Winkel during Garmisch's final "Super Saturday" in 2005. The five-week program culminated with a final downhill run and a graduation ceremony Feb. 12 in and around the Hausberg Lodge.

with Wonderful Wednesday for the older kids, there was nothing for the little ones," Weisel said.

"I wanted to give the preschoolers the full Garmisch experience. There were kids here today who have never been on skis before this program and now you see them turning and stopping."

Parents and instructors in attendance agreed that the children's time spent learning to ski was well worth the trouble. "Learning to ski is just like learning to ride a bike," Lonkhurst said. "Once you learn you'll never forget."

For 4-year-old Ian Yako, the entire Super Saturday experience boiled down to one simple concept. "I like going fast," he said with a grin, before going back to his cupcake.

News & Notes

Tax office now open

The tax assistance office in building 202, room 3 (second floor) on Artillery Kaserne is now officially up and running.

Although U.S. citizens who live overseas have an automatic extension (until June 15) to file a tax return, taxpayers will be responsible for interest or penalties accrued after April 15.

In addition to federal returns, the office can also assist with the electronic filing of most state returns.

This service is free to all U.S. ID cardholders and is provided on an appointment-only basis.

To make an appointment, e-mail bruce.gittinger@garmisch.army.mil or call 442-2516/civ. 08821-759-516.

"Black Comedy" premieres soon

Garmisch presents "Black Comedy," a farce in one act, March 17 to 19, 7:30 p.m., and March 20, 5 p.m., in the Garmisch Players' Community Theater on Artillery Kaserne.

This play is entered in the Installation Management Agency Europe's Tournament of Plays competition.

Due to club-style seating, it is recommended that tickets be purchased in advance at the Crafts Tree, Artillery Kaserne building 263.

Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$7 for youth. Ages 12 and under are free. For details call 442-2475/civ. 08821-759-475.

GCSC offers scholarships

The Garmisch Community and Spouses' Club is awarding scholarships to community applicants.

Applicants must have a family member who has a current and paid membership with the GCSC.

The deadline for applications is April 15. For details contact Amy Yako at yakoam@marshallcenter.org.

Legal assistance pays a visit

Representatives from the Stuttgart Law Center will be in Garmisch March 14 and 15 (in building 202, room 109 on Artillery Kaserne).

Hours for walk-in powers-of-attorney and notary services are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Attorney consultations are available by appointment only.

To schedule an appointment call 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.

Thrift Shop serves community

The Garmisch Thrift Shop, located in building 212 on Artillery Kaserne, is open Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Consignments are accepted until 1 p.m.

Christmas items are no longer being accepted. Beginning March 15, spring clothing will be accepted, so clean out your closets. Make sure all consigned items work, are clean and in good repair.

For more information or to volunteer in the shop call 442-2552/civ. 08821-759-552 or see Brigitte at the shop during business hours.

PTA to hold service auction

The Garmisch American School Parent Teacher Association is sponsoring a service auction April 2, 6 p.m.

The PTA is looking individuals who are willing to donate any services or items that might be auctioned off, such as cooking meals, baby sitting services and crafts.

If you are willing to volunteer, contact Angela Fravel at 08821-943-3861 or e-mail jadkfrav@aol.com.

Youth baseball signups underway

Registration for youth baseball and T-ball has begun. The cost is \$30.

Coaches are still needed (and head coaches' children play for free). For more information call Drew Benson at 440-2654/civ. 08821-750-654 or e-mail drew.benson@garmisch.army.mil.

Retirement services available

Jim Hicks is Area Support Team Garmisch's retirement services officer. He is available to assist in any way with issues or concerns.

He does not keep regular hours, so call him at 08821-925-890 to schedule an appointment. Hicks' office is located in Artillery Kaserne building 203 (across from the Tricare office on the ground floor).

Air Force's top teams face off in Garmisch

NATO Geilenkirchen takes USAFE hockey title

Story & photos by Jen Stephan

Eight hockey teams from as far away as the United Kingdom converged on the Ice Stadium in Garmisch-Partenkirchen Feb. 10 to 13 for the Eighth Annual U.S. Air Forces in Europe Invitational Ice Hockey Tournament.

"These [teams] come from across Europe to this nice location for a common interest: ice hockey," said USAFE Fitness and Sports Manager and Tournament Director Master Sgt. Doug Kingery, who has run the tournament for the past two years. "They look forward to this event every year ... for many of the players, it's their only opportunity to play with other Americans while stationed here."

For only the second year, the tournament bracket also included a Garmisch team.

"Our team is just thrown together," said Garmisch player John Little. "But we look forward to the tournament and we come here to have fun."

Garmisch's Flori Skinner, who scored a hat trick during Garmisch's game against Baden, agreed. "It's three days of nonstop action and fun," he said.

At the end of the elimination games, the final contest featured a face off between the mostly Canadian team of the Geilenkirchen Flyers – each player sporting a white maple leaf on his shoulder – versus the red, white and blue-attired American team of the United Kingdom Warbirds.

Though the first several minutes of the final game were scoreless, the teams played hard. As the game wore on, tempers heated up and the



The Geilenkirchen Flyers gather around their third consecutive USAFE hockey tournament trophy.

Warbirds began to outstrip their competitors in time spent in the penalty box.

The Flyers took advantage of their weakened opponent and scored on a power play.

A shoving match in the second period ended with a Warbird player ejected from the game for racing onto the ice and into the fray from the sidelines. The U.K. team also lost another player close to the end of the game, but by that time the Flyers had already locked up their third consecutive USAFE title (the final score was 5-2).

"It's a good way to go home," said Geilenkirchen coach Luc Pillon, who is in his final year with the team before returning home to Canada.

Undaunted and proud of his team's second place showing, Warbird captain Davis Jarvis said, "Last year we finished in third place. This year it's second. Next year we'll be number one."



Tempers flare during the championship match of the USAFE Hockey Tournament Feb. 13 in Garmisch.

Team-builder enhances EUCOM groups

Assistant IG works with offices, directorates to build camaraderie, increase effectiveness

Story and photo by Melanie Casey

About 25 members of the Headquarters, European Command, J-5 Europe Division gathered on Panzer Kaserne Feb. 17 for a day of introspection and team building.

But they didn't do it alone.

Don Keeler, the assistant inspector general at Headquarters, EUCOM, served as the group's facilitator for the event.

His presence helped “move things along on the agenda without being obtrusive, ensuring [the group] got to where they wanted to be at the end of the day,” he said.

Keeler is available to serve as a facilitator for group interviews (also known as sensing sessions) and unit off-site workshops for interested units within EUROM.

The group interview

Keeler's role as a group interview facilitator compliments the IG mission, one facet of which is to serve as the "eyes, ears, conscience and sometimes the voice of the commander," he said.

As a group interview facilitator, Keeler is not an advocate for the commander or the client, he added, but an impartial party.

This allows him to “provide a venue for opinions but not let bias and emotions taint the process,” he said.

His job is to gather intelligence and glean perceptions about how people feel and think. Since participants remain anonymous (no names are released) they have “the ability to speak freely and honestly. That confidence allows them to speak out,” Keeler added.

Off-site opportunities

Along with facilitating group interviews, Keeler is available to manage unit meetings held outside of the workplace. J-5 Europe took advantage of Keeler in this capacity during an event held on Panzer Kaserne.

During the meeting, Keeler helped J-5 Europe identify its "big picture" goals for 2005 and "focus on what J-5 intends to achieve as a division in the next 12 months," said J-5 Europe Division Chief Col. Mike Anderson.

Goals included developing better coordination between agencies and developing regional strategies.

The off-site meeting helped give division members a “sense that this is their division, that they are developing what we should be doing, not just me,” said Anderson. “The neutral factor of the IG helps,” Anderson added.

The off-site also provided a day out of the office to stand back and analyze, said Lt. Col. Tracy Sharp. "Everyone is so busy with the day to day," he said, "we can lose sight of the big picture."

The event was “a great opportunity to get out of the workplace and out of the normal hectic environment to look at what we’re doing and where we’re going,” said Maj. Mark Karas, J-5 Europe, Eurasia branch.

J-5 Europe

EUCOM's J-5 branch is responsible for developing plans and policy within EUCOM's 91-country area of responsibility. Service members and civilians assigned to J-5 Europe, the biggest of the J-5 divisions, act as political and military advisors to the command, Anderson said.

They also help develop long-term, long-range policies, relationships and partnerships with their counterparts in the countries with whom they work, Sharp said.

Although some may believe that team building exercises such as the J-5 Europe off site are held because individuals are experiencing problems, "for us, that's not true," Anderson said. "We're a great team that I'm trying to make even greater."

EUCOM commanders interested in coordinating a group interview or off-site event with Keeler should visit him at the IG office on Patch Barracks, call 430-5556/civ. 0711-680-5556 or e-mail keelerd@eucom.mil.



Don Keeler, Headquarters, European Command assistant inspector general, facilitates a daylong workshop with members of EUCOM's J-5 Europe Division Feb. 16 on Panzer Kaserne.

CID issues 'all points bulletin' for qualified Soldiers

By Kenneth A. Miller
Army News Service

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command has an ongoing all-points bulletin out for qualified Soldiers who want to become highly trained special agents.

During peacetime and war, CID agents investigate all felony crimes in which the Army has an interest, provide protective services for key Department of Defense and Army leadership, and work closely with other federal, state and local law enforcement and intelligence agencies to solve crime and combat terrorism.

Agents receive training at the U.S. Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and advanced training in a wide range of specialized investigative disciplines.

Some specialties include polygraphs, counter-narcotics, economic-crime investigations, computer crime and many other specialties in the criminal investigate field. CID has more than 200 offices worldwide, including an airborne detachment at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Some investigators also have the opportunity to receive advanced law enforcement training at the FBI National Academy, the Canadian Police College, and George Washington University, where they can earn a master's degree in Forensic Science.

Premier law enforcement

"We continue to look for qualified prospects to join the ranks of CID and receive the necessary training to become one of the DoD's premier law enforcement special agents," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Misianowycz, command sergeant major for Headquarters, CIDC.

"It's an outstanding opportunity for Soldiers looking for a career in law enforcement," Misianowycz said.

CID offers a local six-month internship program for Soldiers who lack the law-enforcement experience, said Marianne Godin, chief of CID's Accreditation Division.

Enrollment in the initial internship programs will help develop the recruit's potential to complete the rigorous 15-week Apprentice Special Agent Course at the U.S. Army Military Police School," Godin said. "After these classroom studies, Soldiers spend the first year as probationary agents before becoming fully accredited."

Godin said civilian special agents are classified as criminal investigators under the Office of Personnel



Army News Service / CID

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is currently looking for qualified Soldiers who want to become special agents.

Management guidelines.

Applicants must meet specific criteria as established by the Office of Personnel Management in the Handbook for General Schedule Positions.

An "excellent opportunity"

"The CID special agent profession is also an excellent opportunity for enlisted Soldiers who aspire to become warrant officers," Godin said.

"Currently, the 311A career field provides among the Army's best opportunities for diverse assignments and rapid advancement," he added.

For a Soldier to apply and qualify as a CID Special Agent, applicants must meet the following criteria, which includes:

- U.S. citizen at least 21 years old
- E-5 or below with at least two years of service and not more than 10
- Completed 60 semester hours of college credit
- Accept 36 months obligated service upon completion of the Apprentice Special Agent Course
- Able to obtain and keep top secret clearance.

CID is currently accepting applications for Soldiers at the E-6 level who are fully qualified and serving in the Military Occupational Skill 31B (Military Police) or 31E (Internment/Resettlement Specialist).

Soldiers interested in becoming CID Special Agents are encouraged to contact their closest CID office or visit www.cid.army.mil.

Distributed learning revolutionizes training for Army personnel

By Shadi May
Army News Service

Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians can now use the service's Distributed Learning System to take courses to fulfill their training requirements or enhance their careers.

The DLS is a fully-funded Army initiative that offers quality training in state-of-the-art facilities and improves training efficiency and flexibility.

"Quality training is at the core of the Army's mission, and it's absolutely vital to readiness," said Col. Sharon Holmes, DLS project manager.

While the Army's goal is to provide the best and most up-to-date training to Soldiers, this is not always an easy task because of Soldiers' deployments, reassignments and family commitments.

Working at home

Whether it is military occupational skills training, annual common tasks training or career development courses, DLS affords Soldiers a chance to take courses from home or office.

"The thing I like about it is that you can go at your own pace," said Spc. Chris Fitzgerald, a D Company, 187th Medical Battalion preventive medical specialist. "It's one on one between you and the computer, and you don't have to worry about falling behind like you would when an instructor goes over the material. You can go back and redo your lesson."

DLS is also available to benefit civilian employees with their career enhancement goals. In fact, like Soldiers, civilians are actively taking advantage of courses offered through DLS.

"It's a method of delivering training which helps you avoid [temporary deployment] costs and time out of the office," said David Glass, Installation Labor Relations officer at Fort Sam Houston Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, who was enrolled in a video teletraining course entitled 'Dealing with Medical Issues in the Work Place.'

Bringing training to students

Video teletraining is one of many methods by which DLS accommodates its customers.

DLS works well within the Army's ever-changing environment, and offers instruction when Soldiers are available and where training is needed.

For example, VTT classes can be taught in a live, interactive setting whether it's 3 p.m. at Fort Sam Houston, 7 a.m. in Bosnia or 11 a.m. in Korea.

The DLS has also begun to field an Army learning management system whereby Soldiers and civilians can register for courses through the Army Knowledge Online portal.

The system will support the management and administration of training products and will allow supervisors and commanders access to personnel training records to see what type of training individuals have already taken and to determine what type of training they need.

"Our challenge is to market the program and ensure all people entitled to the benefit use it," said Velma Burrs, chief, Multimedia Training Branch, Department of Academic Support and Quality Assurance for Army Medical Department Center and School. "Our greatest service is that we deliver mission-essential training to personnel in worldwide locations."

DLS consists of five components:

- Digital training facilities.
- Army learning management system.
- Army E-learning.
- Enterprise management center.
- Development of the deployed digital training campus.

The Army has fielded the program worldwide on both active and Reserve installations at 249 sites in the United States, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Korea and Japan.

Saving money

Another attractive factor of DLS for commanders and supervisors is the cost savings to the government.

While it could cost an average of \$1,200 to send someone to a training conference, the DLS opportunities save units thousands of dollars in travel costs while providing immediate results.

The Army's goal is to have a DLS facility within a 50-mile radius of a Soldier's home base. The intent of the program is to reach Soldiers throughout the world any time.

"The program's quality promotes itself," said Neta Lesjak, AMEDDC&S chief of Department of Academic Support and Quality Assurance. "The program's goal is to deliver the right training to the right Soldiers at the right time in their careers."

For more information visit www.dls.army.mil.

E-mail scam targets families of slain service members, DoD civilians

Fraudulent solicitations incorporate links to official Web site

Department of Homeland Security Release

Michael J. Garcia, the Department of Homeland Security's assistant secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, issued a warning to the public Feb. 18 about two new Iraq-related Internet scams targeting Americans.

One fraud is directed at the relatives of fallen U.S. Soldiers in Iraq and another involves a sender who claims to be an ICE agent in Iraq tracking Saddam Hussein's assets.

"These new Internet fraud schemes are among the worst we have ever encountered. Most troubling is the fact that some are targeting the relatives of U.S. Soldiers killed in Iraq," Garcia said.

"We are also concerned about the fact that these criminals are impersonating ICE agents and referring to ICE's official Web site in an effort to steal money," Garcia added. "Those who receive these bogus e-mail solicitations should ignore and delete them."

Grieving families targeted

The first scheme involves e-mails sent to relatives of U.S. Soldiers who were killed in Iraq. Claiming to be a volunteer working with U.S. forces, the sender states that a late friend, who was also a U.S. Soldier killed in Iraq, was a very good friend of the relatives' slain son or daughter.

The sender asks for assistance in obtaining funds kept for them by the deceased friend, and informs the family that more information will be forthcoming when the relatives reply to the initial (scam) e-mail.

In a bid to establish authenticity, the sender includes a link to ICE's official Web site.

These new Internet fraud schemes are among the worst we have ever encountered.

Most troubling is the fact that some are targeting the relatives of U.S. Soldiers killed in Iraq.

Michael J. Garcia

Department of Homeland Security

Second fraud: stolen funds

In the second scheme, a blanket e-mail is being distributed which claims to be from an Immigration and Customs Enforcement official in Iraq who is responsible for tracking down funds looted from the Iraqi Central Bank by Saddam Hussein's son. Again, the sender lists ICE's Web site address in the e-mail in an effort to establish credibility.

The public should know that these solicitations are not associated with any ICE personnel or activities, and should not respond or provide any personal or financial information to anyone who makes such an overture.

It is true that ICE agents assigned to the U.S. Central Command did conduct investigative operations in Iraq for many months after the U.S. invasion as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Among other activities, ICE agents conducted

Security resources available online

Defense Threat Reduction Agency
www.dtra.mil

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
www.dhs.gov

U.S. Department of State
www.state.gov

U.S. Army, Europe, Office of the Provost Marshal
www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/opmhome.html

financial investigations that resulted in the seizure of \$32 million in U.S. currency in Iraq. ICE agents also traced the serial numbers from the roughly \$756 million in U.S. currency and 90 million euros seized by the U.S. military in April 2003.

The ICE investigation found that these funds had been withdrawn from the Central Bank of Iraq by Saddam Hussein's son in the days leading up to the U.S. invasion.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.

ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

For more about ICE visit www.ice.gov.

Stay smart, stay alive: Fire Safety = Family Safety

6th ASG Public Affairs Office Release

The 6th Area Support Group Directorate of Emergency Services wants to get the word out about the dangers of unattended candles and cooking.

Unattended cooking is the number one cause of fires both in America and in the Stuttgart military community, said Fire Prevention Branch Supervisory Fire Inspector Leonard Fagan.

The 6th ASG has begun charging residents living in government quarters for repairs from avoidable fires caused by unattended cooking or candles.

Residents could be sent a bill for repairs of up to \$10,000. This new policy

Unattended cooking is the number one cause of fires in the Stuttgart military community.

"hits home," Fagan said. "It hits people in the pocket book."

Individuals whose quarters are damaged by accidental fires will not be charged, Fagan added.

Fagan stressed that families living on post should insure that they have renter's insurance and that it is current.



Remember: If you're not in the room, it's called unattended cooking.

Families living in government quarters could be liable for up to \$10,000 for fires caused by unattended cooking or candles.

For additional information about fire safety online visit www.nfpa.org

Keep personal safety at forefront of fire-response plan

- Alert individuals in the area of the fire and direct them to an area away from the danger.
- Close doors and windows to confine the fire, and activate the fire alarm.
- If not on the ground floor, take the stairs to access the exit. Never use elevators when the building is on fire.
- Don't worry about gathering personal belongings : Move out of and away from the building.
- Once you have safely exited a burning structure, do not go back inside.

Phone numbers to know for on-post emergencies

*** Military Police: 114 ***

Stuttgart Civ. 0711-680-114 / Garmisch civ. 08821-759-114

** Emergencies only. For non-emergencies call the MP desk **

Stuttgart - 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262 Garmisch - 442-2801/civ. 08821-759-801

Ambulance: 116

Stuttgart Civ. 0711-680-116 / Garmisch Civ. 08821-759-116

Fire Department: 117

Stuttgart Civ. 0711-680-117 / Garmisch Civ. 08821-759-117

Stuttgart, Garmisch Community Events

- Egg Hunt & Easter Carnival**

 - March 26, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Patch Barracks (Husky Field & Youth Services)
 - Cost: \$3 for barbecue (Egg Hunt & Carnival are free!)
 - For details call 430-7483/civ. 0711-680-7483
- Easter Wonderland Carnival**

 - March 26, noon to 5 p.m.
 - Artillery Kaserne (Pete Burke Center)
 - Games and food booths
 - Age-appropriate activities
 - Photos with the Easter Bunny
 - Cost: free!
 - For details call 440-2881/civ. 08821-750-881
- Easter Brunch**

 - March 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Patch Community Club
 - Cost: \$14.95 (adults); \$6.95 (ages 5 to 12)
 - For reservations call 421-2089/civ. 0711-729-2089



Easter Worship Schedule

Community Event

March 27

Sunrise Service & Breakfast (RB Chapel, 7 a.m.)

Church of God in Christ

March 27

Easter Service (Panzer Chapel, 1:15 p.m.)

Lutheran

March 24

Maundy Thursday Service (Panzer Chapel, 6:30 p.m.)

March 27

Easter Service (Panzer Chapel, 9 a.m.)

Protestant

March 24

Maundy Thursday Service (Patch Chapel, 5:30 p.m.)
Holy Thursday Service (Garmisch Chapel, 7p.m.)

March 25

Good Friday Service (Garmisch Chapel, noon)
Good Friday Service (Panzer Chapel, 6:30 p.m.)

March 27

Easter Sunrise Service (Garmisch, 7 a.m.)
Easter Service (RB Chapel, 9 a.m.)
Easter Sunday Worship (Garmisch Chapel, 10:45 a.m.)
Easter Service (Panzer Chapel, 10:45 a.m.)
Easter Service (Patch Chapel, 11 a.m.)
Easter Service (Patch Chapel, 6 p.m.)

Roman Catholic

March 20

Palm Sunday Mass (Garmisch Chapel, 9 a.m.)

March 21

Reconciliation Service (Patch Chapel, 5:30 p.m.)

March 24

Holy Thursday Mass (Garmisch Chapel, 5 p.m.)
Holy Thursday Mass (Patch Chapel, 7 p.m.)

March 25

Good Friday Mass (Garmisch Chapel, 5:30 p.m.)
Good Friday Mass (Patch Chapel, 6 p.m.)

March 26

Holy Saturday Vigil Mass (Patch Chapel, 7 p.m.)
Easter Vigil Mass (Garmisch Chapel, 8 p.m.)

March 27

Easter Mass (Patch Chapel, 9 a.m.)
Easter Mass (Garmisch Chapel, 9 a.m.)
Easter Mass (Robinson Barracks Chapel, 11:30 a.m.)

April 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Patch Chapel, 5 p.m.)